(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Heads of Government renewed their commitment to the Commonwealth's fundamental political values and reviewed global political and economic developments. They called for firm deterrent measures by the United Nations Security Council against states, entities and organisations which harbour and train terrorists or promote international terrorism. The Heads of Government also called for increased international cooperation to ensure that the benefits of globalisation are shared more equitably. The Meeting also, *inter-alia,* endorsed the decision to suspend the military regime in Pakistan from the councils of the Commonwealth pending restoration of democracy, requested the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group to keep the situation in Pakistan under review and urged that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and others detained with him be released immediately.

Non-Aligned Movement

324. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider NAM to be an important and relevant forum which could be used to achieve some foreign policy goals like promoting peace and stability in the world, encourage South and South Cooperation, work out a common approach to the International Financial problems etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to play more active role in NAM?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government of India considers NAM to be an important and relevant forum to achieve our foreign policy goals of promoting peace, disarmament and development. India played a pro-active role in the XIIth NAM Summit at Durban in September 1998, as well as NAM Ministerial Conference at New York in September 1999 to strengthen NAM consensus in these areas. India has also worked assiduously to strengthen NAM's internal cohesion to enable it more effectively to place the concerns of nonaligned and developing countries at the centre of international agenda.

Indian in Pakistani Jails

325. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1,622 Indian service personnel including 54 officers are in Pakistani jails;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the above service personnel were declared dead and their family members are getting pension;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this fact was discussed with the Pakistan Delegation during the meeting of Indo Pak Officers;

(e) if so, the outcome of the discussion; and

(f) if not, what steps are being taken by the Government for the early release of the Indian prisoners?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) According to available information, 54 Indian Prisoners of War (POWs) are believed to be in the custody of Pakistan. Pakistan has consistently maintained that no Indian POWs are in its custody.

Government have extended to the families of the 54 Indian POWs believed to be in Pakistan's custody liberalised family pension, family gratuity and education allowance for children.

The matter has been taken up on several occasiosn with Pakistan at various levels, including that of Prime Minister. During his visit to Pakistan from 20-21 February, 1999, Prime Minister raised this issue with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the two sides appointed a 2 member committee at Ministerial level to examine humanitarian issues, including that of the missing POWs.

The matter was also raised in the official level discussions held with Pakistan on March 5-6, 1999. The Pakistani side stated that there were no Indian POWs in its custody, but agreed to re-examine the matter afresh.

Government would continue to purposefully pursue this matter with Pakistan.

Delhi quota for Haj Pilgrims

326. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Haj Committee has decided to reduce Haj Pilgrim's quota from Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Govt. had received any representation from the Chairman, Delhi State Haj Committee in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No representation has been received by the Government from the Chairman, Delhi State Haj Committee.